BACKGROUND

The Shasta Public Libraries offers Internet and Computer Use services to local patrons.

PURPOSE

The following policy governs the use of all Shasta Public Libraries' computer resources including public and staff Internet access, use of computers in the Library's Computer Center, non-Internet applications, staff computers, and remote use of the Library's computer services.

POLICY

It is the policy of the library to: Prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail or other forms of direct electronic communications; Prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; Prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use or dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; Comply with Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

The Internet is an unregulated, global resource that contains materials that some persons may find offensive. While the Library will take precautions to ensure the safety of minors in the Library, it cannot be responsible for anything that any Library user may see or read while in the Library that the user or, in the case of minors, the user's parents, may find offensive. The Library urges parents to accompany their children while visiting the Library to ensure that their children are safe at all times.

Internet Users:

Internet users are expected to act in a responsible and legal manner. Users may not use library computers to access Internet sites that depict or transmit material that violates State and Federal law. The Library is not responsible for the content of retrieved information. Library users are responsible for critically evaluating the quality and accuracy of material obtained from the Internet.

Pursuant to Federal regulations, the Federal Depository Library Program electronic collection is available to any library user free of fees and may not be locally regulated.

Internet Access:

All Library computers with Internet access will use a technology protection measure to block, filter or otherwise protect against access to visual depictions that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors and to any other materials considered inappropriate for or harmful to minors.

Specifically, the technology protection measure shall block or filter Internet access to visual depictions that are: Obscene, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code; Child Pornography, as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code; Harmful to minors.

The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that: Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact; Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

The terms "sexual act" and "sexual contact" have the meanings given such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.

Requests for Disabling the Internet Filter:

Any person 18 years or over, may, upon request, have the Internet filter disabled to provide access at a terminal of the staff's choosing for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. Viewing of visual depictions of any sexually oriented material for the purpose of appealing to prurient interests is strictly prohibited. Any observance by library staff of violations or any complaints from users disturbed or disrupted by exposure to violations of this policy shall be grounds for loss of Internet privileges.

The filter shall be disabled only for the duration of the customer's use of the workstation, and may not be transferred to another customer at the end of the requesting user's use of the workstation. In all disputes concerning disabling of the filter, the library staff's decision will prevail and be final.

Users whose conduct while using public computer systems is disruptive or interferes with the use of the Library by others or is in violation of this policy, will be asked to modify their behavior; or, if unable to modify their behavior, will be asked to leave the Library.

The Library reserves the right to suspend computer privileges by a minor without notification to the parent or legal guardian. The Library reserves the right to suspend computer privileges in the case of failure to comply with this policy.

Rules of Conduct for Internet and Computer Use:

Users read and agree to the rules of conduct when reserving and logging in to a computer. Use of library technology by each and every staff member, volunteer, or public user shall constitute that person's acknowledgment of an agreement to abide by this Internet Use and Safety Policy, including guidelines for use of the Internet by minors.

- Library public computers are available only to patrons with a current library account or a valid government-issued photographic identification.

- All Library public workstations are available for up to two hours per day per user. Library staff may extend sessions at their discretion if no other users are waiting and at least one other workstation is open for other users to access.

- Use of public workstations is on a first-come/first-served basis.

- Users must sign up to use a computer on a next-available basis via the Library's automated sign-up system. Requests for specific computers cannot be honored.

- Only one person at a time may use a public workstation. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of library staff.

- Printing may not be available at all workstations. The fee for printing is posted on the Shasta Public Libraries Fines and Fees Schedule. There is a fee for printing even if the customer supplies paper. Printers may not be used for other purposes or be attached to other computers.

- Users must not interfere with the performance of the network. Users must not reconfigure computers, "hack" passwords, gain entry to closed areas of the network, or introduce computer viruses. Users are responsible for any hardware or software damage they cause, and tampering with hardware or software is considered vandalism and may result in loss of future privileges and/or arrest and prosecution.

- Users may not use the workstation for any illegal activity, including violating copyright laws or software license agreements. Users may not install their own software programs.

- Users must not interfere with the work of others and must respect others' rights to privacy.

- The Library upholds the right of confidentiality and privacy for all users. To protect the privacy of the user and the interests of other library users, the Library will manage user access to the Internet by use of an automated sign-up method that does not retain permanent records of computer use by individuals.

- Absolute privacy for customers using electronic resources in the Library cannot be guaranteed. There exists a possibility of inadvertent viewing by other users, either by watching the user's screen, or because a user may leave the screen unattended.

- The Library does not provide individual public user e-mail accounts.

- Use of the Library's computers is a privilege. Users must end their sessions and leave the workstations when asked to do so by library staff.

- The staff will continually evaluate this policy and recommend changes as the need arises.

- Users shall utilize the library network for lawful activities only. They shall not use the network to cause harm to others or damage the property of others. They shall not intentionally upload, download or create computer viruses or other forms of malicious programming, attempt to harm or destroy equipment, manipulate the data of any other user, or seek unauthorized access to network and systems including so-called 'hacking.'

- Users shall not disclose, use or disseminate personal identification information regarding minors without proper authorization.

Supervising Computer Use by Children:

Access for all users under age 18 will be filtered. The public library, unlike schools, does not serve in loco parentis (in the place of a parent). Librarians cannot act in the place of parents in providing constant care and supervision of children as they explore the Internet. Parents and legal guardians are responsible for monitoring any and all Internet use by minors. Consent given on the part of parents or legal guardians for a library card constitutes acknowledgement by the parents or legal guardians that they have a responsibility for monitoring their child's use of all library resources, including the public computers.

The following are recommended guidelines for parents and guardians to ensure that children have positive online experiences, whether at home or at the Library.

- Use the Internet as a family. Join your children in Internet exploration.

- Explore the wide range of available information and tell your children about sites you consider inappropriate for them.

- Provide guidelines for your children on the amount of time they spend online, just as for television viewing.

- Instruct children NEVER to give out personal information (name, address, password, telephone number, social security number, credit card number) about themselves or others online without first asking a parent for permission.

- Teach children to be good online consumers. As with print information, consider the source, date, and accuracy of online information.

- Teach minors to exercise discretion and caution when communicating using the Internet, electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications in order to remain safe and secure (e.g. avoidance of predators, cyber-bullying, and scams).

Parents and children are encouraged to read "Child Safety on the Information Highway" and other online safety materials available free at www.safekids.com and www.safeteens.com. Staff in the Children's Room at the Redding Library and staff at the branch library locations can provide a list of child-appropriate web sites.

Adopted by the Redding Municipal Library Board 6/18/2007

Amended by the Redding Municipal Library Board 8/20/2012 by Resolution Number 2012-001

Amended by the Redding Municipal Library Board 3/17/2014 by Resolution Number 2014-001

Amended by the Redding Municipal Library Board 1/25/2021 by Resolution Number 2021-001